

Driving Laws

All drivers have legal responsibilities they must follow. Refer to the Missouri Driver Guide for additional information about driving laws.

Windshield Wipers and Headlights

While driving on Missouri's roadways, headlights are required to be on when using the windshield wipers and during periods of fog. Rain and fog result in reduced visibility. It's better to be seen than to be in a traffic crash.

Work Zone Safety

Be patient when approaching road construction areas. These crews work very hard to improve the roadways for motorists. Speed limits may be lowered in these areas for your safety and the safety of the work crew. The number one



cause of traffic crashes in work zones is driving too fast. Missouri's penalty for speeding in work zones is very expensive. Slow down and pay attention in work zones.

Steer Clear

If a crash should occur, call the police and move the vehicle off the roadway if possible. Vehicles left in the roadway could cause additional crashes to occur. Turn on your flashers and use reflectors or flashlights to warn approaching traffic.

- Help anyone who is hurt, avoiding direct contact with blood. Do NOT try to move an injured person unless their safety is at risk. Make sure someone calls an ambulance if one is needed.

- Exchange the following information with those involved in the crash:
 - ♦ Names and addresses
 - ♦ License plate numbers and vehicle identification numbers
 - ♦ Insurance company names and policy numbers
- Do not leave the scene until a law-enforcement officer says you can.

Law Enforcement Stops

Pull off to the right, as far as possible, at the first safe location and turn on your emergency flashers and engine. Turn the interior lights on at night. Leave your seat belt on and sit calmly. Place hands on top of the steering wheel so the officer knows you are not a threat and follow the officer's instructions.

Impaired Driving

Drinking alcohol under the age of 21 is illegal in Missouri. And, driving while impaired, whether by drugs or alcohol, by anyone, anytime, is illegal. It's very dangerous and sometimes fatal.



A law enforcement officer has the right to measure the blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of any driver who appears to be intoxicated. BAC is the percentage of alcohol in the body. It can be measured by testing blood, breath or urine.

Even one drink can raise BAC over the zero tolerance level and impair the ability to drive safely. Zero tolerance in Missouri means anyone under 21 driving with a BAC of .02% or higher will have his or her license suspended for 30 days, followed by 60 days of restricted driving. If convicted, he or she will also pay a fine and be required to complete a substance abuse program for traffic offenders.

Any driver under 21 convicted of an alcohol-related offense within the last 12 months will not be eligible for a full drivers license until the offense/conviction date is 12 months old or until you turn 21 (whichever comes first).



Overview Checklist

Now that you've completed all the lessons in this guide, keep track of what you are doing well and where more practice is needed.

- Completes basic pre-operation checks (tires, area around vehicle, warning lights)
- Adjusts seat and steering wheel for comfort and control
- Buckles safety belt correctly
- Adjusts mirrors to maximize visibility and minimize blind spots
- Starts engine
- Applies appropriate pressure to gas pedal for smooth acceleration and proper speed
- Brakes and stops on a hill smoothly
- Turns right safely
- Turns left safely
- Able to angle park
- Able to park at a 90 degree angle
- Able to parallel park
- Able to park uphill
- Able to park downhill
- Observes and obeys the speed limit
- Adjusts the speed for driving conditions
- Understands and uses the appropriate "seconds" rule for following vehicles
- Maintains proper lane position
- Changes lanes properly
- Passes vehicles safely
- Merges safely
- Communicates with other drivers properly